
DE News

August 17, 2001 - Iowa Department of Education - Ted Stilwill, Director

Back to “safe” schools a priority

An important part of the outstanding education you all provide Iowa students includes safe schools. For many districts, safe schools is such an obvious thing that we often take them – and student safety – for granted.

But we shouldn't, for a couple reasons: One is that we've worked hard to protect our kids from most forms of extreme violence in schools. We have strict weapons laws and policies that exceed federal guidelines, and have communicated consistent, strong messages about the dangers and consequences of guns. We've also taken proactive steps such as counseling and peer intervention to prevent violent acts from happening.

Another reason that we can't take safe schools for granted is that we have to continue our safety programs and expand them to ensure they include more than just “crisis prevention.”

A weapons crisis is the one that grabs media headlines, but the problems and situations that lead up to a tragedy are the ones that need to be effectively managed to ensure safe schools.

Kids • Families • Schools • Communities



Most of our schools are doing just that through Iowa's Success4 program, which helps mobilize kids, families, schools and communities to enhance the social, emotional, behavioral, and intellectual development of children and youth. It is truly multi-dimensional and has proven very effective at improving the school environment for kids. The result is not only improved safety, but also improved learning.

Social • Emotional • Intellectual • Behavioral

Success4 will offer training for AEAs in September, and I encourage all to participate. Watch also for the upcoming Safe Schools Handbook, which will serve as a resource to guide planning and strategies. In addition, an upcoming conference, “Easing the Teasing in Iowa” (November 14-15 in Ames) will address important issues surrounding bullying and how it contributes to the health and safety of schools.

Teacher compensation policy update

We are very pleased that more than 260 schools have applied for the mentoring and induction portion (Option 1) of the new teacher compensation program. While high participation levels make implementation more of a challenge, they indicate high commitment on your part, and that will lead to program success.

Districts that haven't applied yet have until November 1. See our website, <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/programs/tc/application.html>, for details and application forms.

DE staff plans to attend various superintendents' meetings throughout the next months to help update district staff on the teacher compensation policies, gain feedback and answer questions. The meeting locations and date include:

AEA 1	Sept. 11
AEA 2	Sept. 4
AEA 3	Oct. 3
AEA 4	Sept. 12
AEA 5	Oct. 2
AEA 6	Sept. 5
AEA 7	Sept. 5
AEA 9	Sept. 6
AEA 10	Sept. 12
AEA 11	Sept. 11
AEA 12	Oct. 3
AEA 13	Oct. 3
AEA 14	Sept. 6
AEA 15	Sept. 4
AEA 16	Sept. 5

New presidents at community colleges

Please welcome:

- David England, Des Moines Area Community College
- Bettsey Barhorst, Hawkeye Community College
- Jim Lindenmayer, Indian Hills Community College
- Jim Richardson, Southeastern Community College

October developmental education workshop scheduled

The Bureau of Community Colleges is sponsoring a developmental education workshop October 4 for community college staff. Dr. Robert McCabe, senior fellow with the League of Innovation for Community Colleges, will be the featured speaker. He recently completed the National Study of Community College Remedial Education. The workshop will be conducted in Des Moines with ICN sites available statewide.

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